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## **SECRET OATH GIVES LUKAS RECORD-TYING FIFTH KENTUCKY OAKS VICTORY**

**LOUISVILLE, KY (Friday, May 6, 2022)** – Briland Farm's homebred **Secret Oath** made a five-wide sweeping move on the far turn and then collared **Echo Zulu** at the three-sixteenths pole en route to a 2-length victory over favored **Nest** in the 148th running of the \$1,250,000 Longines Kentucky Oaks (GI) for 3-year-old fillies Friday afternoon at Churchill Downs before a crowd of 100,188.

Trained by **D. Wayne Lukas** and ridden by **Luis Saez**, Secret Oath completed the mile and an eighth on a track listed as good in 1:49.44.

The victory is the fifth in the race for Lukas and ties him with **Woody Stephens** for the most Oaks triumphs. Lukas' other winners were **Blush With Pride** (1982), **Lucky Lucky Lucky** (1984), **Open Mind** (1989) and **Seaside Attraction** (1990).

It is the first Oaks victory for Saez.

Longshot **Yuugiri** and the undefeated Echo Zulu rocketed to the front from the gate and led the field of 14 through early fractions of :22.45 and :46.51.

In the run down the backstretch, Saez has Secret Oath outside of horses and in eighth. Approaching the far turn, Secret Oath began to pick off horses and by the time the field reached the top of the stretch, Secret Oath had moved to the outside of Echo Zulu and reached even terms.

Secret Oath assumed command at the three-sixteenths pole and opened a clear advantage that was more than enough to hold off Nest who rallied for second over **Desert Dawn**.

Secret Oath, bred in Kentucky by **Stacy** and **Rob Mitchell**, is a daughter of **Arrogate** out of the **Quiet American** mare **Absinthe Minded**. The winner's share was \$705,250 and boosted Secret Oath's bankroll to \$1,288,417 with a record of 8-5-0-2.

Secret Oath returned \$10.80, \$5.60 and \$4.60. Nest, ridden by **Irad Ortiz Jr.**, returned \$4.20 and \$3.20 and finished a half-length in front of Desert Dawn who paid \$15.40 to show under **Umberto Rispoli**.

It was another half-length back to Echo Zulu who was followed in order by **Kathleen O.**, **Shahama**, **Turnerloose**, **Cocktail Moments**, **Candy Raid**, **Nostalgic**, **Goddess of Fire**, **Hidden Connection**, **Yuugiri** and **Venti Valentine**.

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